since July, 2002, at least 2-3 organized networks of poachers were involved in poaching of tigers & leopards in the tiger reserve.

Statement

The terms of reference of the Task Force

1. Suggest measures to strengthen tiger conservation in the country.

2. Suggest measures to incentivise the local community in conservation of tigers.

3. Suggest measures to incentivise local forest staff posted in sanctuaries/national parks and ensure an effective HR plan for tiger conservation/wildlife managers.

4. Suggest measures to improve the methodology of tiger counting and forecasting.

5. Suggest methods of transparent professional audit of wildlife parks and placing data on tiger conservation in the public domain.

6. Suggest a new wildlife management paradigm that shares concerns of conservation with the public at large.

Alarming increase of Bhitarkanika crocodiles

1319. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that once endangered Bhitarkanika crocodiles are danger to humans now;

(b) whether it is a fact that the crocodile population in Bhitarkanika National Park has alarmingly increased and the man-crocodile clashes have resulted in a number of human beings falling victim to crocodile attacks; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save local people from crocodile attacks in Bhitarkanika National Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. As per report received for Government of Orissa, almost the entire population of Saltwater crocodiles are confined to the creeks and river systems of the Bhitarkanika National Park which is free from any private rights to land, etc.

(b) No, Sir. The population of the Saltwater crocodiles as per census of 2005 is only 1,454 whereas the carrying capacity of Bhitarkanika National Park is estimated to be about 3,000.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting of Wildlife Crime Bureau

1320. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching is one of the major reasons for wiping out tigers from tiger reserves, expecially at Sariska;

(b) if so, how Government plan to improve anti-poaching measures at the ground level;

(c) whether Government contemplate to set up Wildlife Crime Bureau to deal with wildlife criminals; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Project Tiger" and "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", Central Assistance is provided to tiger reserves/National Parks/Sanctuaries in states for anti poaching operations. In tiger reserves, funding support is also provided for deploying armed strike squads, based on demand from States.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Action has been taken for setting up a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.